

**Preliminary Amendment filed October 14, 2005
U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/976,153**

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment is being filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination.

Claims 1-12 are pending in this application.

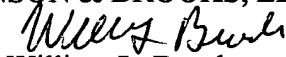
Claim 1 has been amended in order to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter to which Applicant regards as his invention.

The above amendments are believed to place the claims in proper condition for examination. Early and favorable action is awaited.

In the event that any fees are due in connection with this paper, please charge our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, KRATZ, QUINTOS,
HANSON & BROOKS, LLP


William L. Brooks

Attorney for Applicant

Reg. No. 34,129

WLB/ak
Atty. Docket No. **011375**
Suite 1000
1725 K Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 659-2930



23850

PATENT TRADEMARK OFFICE